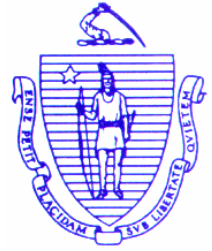




Paul J. Diodati
Director

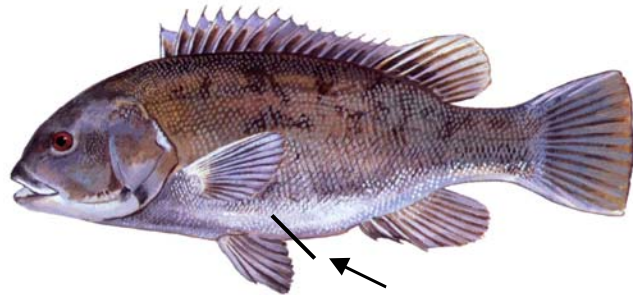
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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May 12, 2003
Marine Fisheries Advisory

TAUTOG TAGGING PROJECT, REWARDS FOR TAG RETURNS

Beginning this May, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) fishery biologists will tag and release tautog as part of a study to reveal fish movements and stock structure. Fishermen are urged to report all captures and release the tagged fish to facilitate this study.



Tautog will be captured and tagged with an internal anchor type tag (see diagram) and released in the same location. The external portion of the tag, a vinyl streamer, is florescent green in color. Rewards (embroidered ball caps) will be sent to all fishermen returning tag information, and a random drawing will be held for a \$100 gift certificate at the end of each year. The number of chances to win will be based upon the number of tags reported.

Fishermen encountering tagged fish are requested to record the following information:

1. tag number;
2. total length of the fish in inches or centimeters;
3. location caught;
4. date of capture;
5. method of capture (e.g rod and reel, fish pot, gillnet, etc.);
6. fisherman's name, address and phone number.



All information should be forwarded to Paul Caruso either by telephone (508-563-1779 ext. 107) or mail (50 A Portside Drive; Pocasset, MA 02559). If uncertain of the tag number, or if the tag is fouled with algae, please mail the tag, since scraping of the tag could remove the print. If fishermen choose to keep a legal size fish, they can cut the internal anchor portion of the tag from inside the belly, since this portion bears the same identification number.

Approximately 200 fish will be tagged in each of four major marine areas; Nantucket Sound, Vineyard Sound, Buzzards Bay and Cape Cod Bay. Return information will be used to judge the site fidelity of individual fish and the degree of mixing between these sites. This project is funded in part by a grant from the Marge Koskela Marine Fisheries Fund administered thru the Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.